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A NEW SPECIES OF *LORDOTUS* FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

(Bombyliidae: Diptera)

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During a five-week period of collecting in the San Gabriel Mountains of the Angeles National Forest, Los Angeles County, California, two species of the genus *Lordotus* Loew were collected. One of these was identified from the key to *Lordotus* by Painter¹ (1939) as *L. planus* O.S. The other appeared to be a new species, which ran to couplet three in Painter's key, and this assumption was verified by R. H. Painter, who kindly examined the specimens and compared them with the determined species of *Lordotus* in his collection.

The species was found in great abundance during the months of June and July. It frequented open areas, usually fire breaks, on the brush-covered ridges at elevations of 2,500 to 6,000 feet. The flies were caught resting on the ground and none were observed visiting the many species of flowering plants that were in abundance at that time.

Lordotus ermae Hall, new species²

Female—Integument black; wings hyaline, veins on basal one-fourth pale, apical three-fourths dark; costal cell and subcostal cell yellowish; first basal cell infuscated in some lights; haltere stalk yellow, knob white. Antenna with dark buff pile above, longer, paler below; face densely buff pilose, tomentum wanting; palpi with long yellow and short black pile intermixed; occiput pale buff pilose, thick white tomentose; thoracic dorsum with pale buff pile intermixed with white pile anteriorly, becoming shorter and scattered posteriorly, becoming long and thick towards base of scutellum, thick white tomentum overall, a patch of white pile above wing bases; dense white tomentum extends from wing base to humeral cross-vein; thoracic pleural area buff pilose; tomentum wanting, pteropleuron bare; coxae with long buff pile; femur dark yellow pilose and tomentose; squama buff pilose; abdominal

¹Painter, R.H., 1939. Notes on type specimens and descriptions of new North American Bombyliidae. Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci. 42:267-301.

²A modern patronymic dedicated to my wife.

dorsum buff pilose; basal one-half of pile yellowish, apical one-half white giving a buff color to pile, a stripe of white tomentum extends from segment II to segment IV on a median dorsal line; pygidium with short yellow pile, scattered white tomentum; abdominal venter darker buff pilose, tomentum wanting. Length of first antennal segment 0.45 mm.; second 0.20 mm.; third 1.0 mm.; face slightly protruding below and above oral opening; proboscis nearly twice as long as anterior tibia; middle tibia with a strong apical spur; costa not denticulate. Length of body 10-12 mm.

Male—Similar to female but differing in the following: Pleural area ground color lighter. Antennal pile partly black towards apices of segments I and II; femora without dense tomentum; abdominal pile white, tomentum wanting; body pile in general lighter. Genitalia apparently identical to those of congeners; length of body 10-13 mm.

Holotype, female and allotype male (Cal. Acad. Sci.), TANBARK FLAT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, June 20, 1950 (J. C. Hall). *Paratypes*—(all from Los Angeles County, California), 35 males, 25 females, Tanbark Flat, June 19-July 4, 1950 (J. C. Hall, R. Schuster, D. C. Blodget, C. J. Weinmann, A. T. McClay, W. O. Marshall, H. F. Robinson, W. A. McDonald, P. D. Hurd, J. W. MacSwain, T. R. Haig, F. X. Williams, individual collectors of specimens). 1 male, Camp Baldy, June 26, 1950 (K. G. Whitesell). 1 female, Johnstone Point, July 14, 1950 (R. Schuster). 1 female, Crystal Lake, June 29, 1950 (H. F. Robinson). 1 male, Big Dalton Dam, June, 1950 (F. X. Williams).

Paratypes are in the collections of the following: California Academy of Sciences, California Insect Survey, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Davis, U. S. National Museum, R. H. Painter (Kansas State College), F. R. Cole, and the writer.

Variations—Male and female—pleural area ground color black to gray. Antennal pile yellow to black above, yellow to dirty white below; abdominal pile buff to pale yellow to dirty white to brown depending upon the light used; stripe of white tomentum sometimes scattered but always present in the female, wanting in the male.

L. ermae appears to be more closely related to *planus* Coquillett, *miscellus* Coquillett, and *junceus* Coquillett than to *gibbus gibbus* Loew. It differs from *planus* in the absence of infuscations on the wings, and the black legs; from *miscellus* in the absence of denticulations of the wings, and the broad dark pilose dorsal band on the abdomen; and from *junceus* in the absence of black or brown pile on the abdomen, and minute black points on the front. It is also several times larger than any of the above three. The male genitalia are similar in all of the above.